

AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are pending.

Claims 4, 9 and 15 have been amended.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11, and 13 have been withdrawn.

Support for the amendments of Claims 4, 9, and 15 can be found in the original claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

REMARKS/REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Claims 4, 9, and 15 have been so amended to delete species of *Althaea officinalis*, *Curcuma longa*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Crataeguscuneata*, *Rehmannia glutinosa*, *Syzygium aromaticum*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Hamamelis virginiana*, *Asiasarum sieboldii*, *Thymus serpyllum*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Sophora flavescens*, *Citrus unshiu*, *Angelica acutiloba*, and *Humulus lupulus*.

The rejection of claims 4, 6, 9-10, 12, and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a) over Santhanam et al., US 6,277,881, is traversed because Santhanam et al. fail to disclose or suggest using the remaining plants of Claims 4, 9 and 15.

Therefore, Santhanam et al. neither anticipate nor make obvious the claimed method for treating aging of the skin and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue.

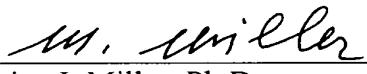
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who

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would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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